

## APPENDIX F

### Maintenance Plan for Licton Springs Natural Areas

This maintenance plan is limited to the natural areas at Licton Springs Park. The more developed turf, play area and comfort stations have a different set of maintenance requirements.

#### Habitat vs. Maintenance

Maintaining a natural area in an urban environment is an exercise in balancing somewhat opposing objectives. While beneficial for wildlife as habitat, thick brush and understory create a public perception of a neglected and unsafe area. This perception discourages legitimate users from visiting the park, starting a downward cycle whereby fewer stakeholders express concern for the park and fewer resources are dedicated to maintenance of the park.

We must address this perception, as well as, enhance wildlife habitat. In addition, limited resources are available for maintenance. As such, it is important that we prioritize areas deserving more maintenance.

#### Focal Points

One opportunity for addressing both the public's perception and prioritize use of maintenance resources is to create focal points that have a more groomed, yet natural, appearance. In selecting areas for focal points, we should attempt to draw people in to the park and frame views and features. Focal Points for Licton Springs include trail entrances, viewpoints, bridges, rock weirs, the south end of the pond, rainbow sign and the spring and collar at the north end.

Focal points should consist of native plants in an informal or natural style. It may be desirable to use more perennial plants and other plants with profuse blooms to add color to the focal points. They should be maintained based on their horticultural requirements. The District's Senior Gardener should supervise work in focal point areas. Specific tasks include:

- Planting
- Watering
- Mulching
- Pruning
- Edging
- Invasive plant removal. Litter removal

Educational signage may also be a desirable component of focal points.

Examples of natural area focal points in other parks include the north turnaround and adjacent shrub beds at Golden Gardens Park, as well as the Habitat Garden and entrances to the wetland walk at Carkeek Park.

### Natural Area

Specific maintenance tasks at Lickon Springs natural area include:

- 1) Keep drains clear so that water can enter the storm water system. Priority should be given to this task right before and during the rainy season.
- 2) Remove litter and debris. This is a considerable task at Lickon Springs. Litter removal should occur daily.
- 3) Remove invasive plants. Emphasis should be placed on areas where revegetation efforts have taken place.
- 4) Monitor re-vegetation projects for plant survival. Observations should be reported to Urban Forester.
- 5) Water newly planted vegetation in upland areas as needed. Watering should be a priority in the first two years after planting during the months of April, May, June, July. Watering of native plants should be limited during the months of August and September. This is to discourage new growth that will not have a chance to harden off for winter.
- 6) Monitor weirs, depressions and shorelines for erosion. Observations should be reported to Urban Forester.
- 7) Monitor pond, swales, and depressions for sedimentation. Observations should be reported to Urban Forester.
- 8) Cut vegetation along trails and view corridors. Lines of sight should be created by cutting back vegetation along trails 2 feet from the edge of both sides of the trail. Vegetation should be cut back between 2 feet high to 8 feet high.
- 9) Remove leaves, twigs, branches and other organic debris from trails. Build of material can become a hazard and shortens the life span of the trail. Apply gravel to trail tread as needed.
- 10) Monitor signs, bridges, lighting, and other structures for damage and place work orders with shops for repairs.

### Crew and Volunteers

In order to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of our efforts, crews should focus on tasks where heavy equipment or power tools can be utilized or where skills are needed to complete the job correctly. Volunteers should perform work that is unskilled and does not involve power tools.

An example of this division of labor for invasive plant removal is have volunteers remove individual species by hand or with a weed wrench and have the crews remove vegetation where a slope mower or brush blade can be used.

Crews and volunteers should work together as much as possible. To assist volunteers and ensure that work is based on the Vegetation Management Plan, we should have one crew person or other skilled worker per maximum 10 volunteers